

Services Division
European Satellite Committee

Meeting of 16 July 1958

Present: [REDACTED] S/CST; [REDACTED] S/COM; [REDACTED] S/TF;
[REDACTED] S/TR; [REDACTED] I/ME; [REDACTED] M/Ag; [REDACTED] St/I/D;
[REDACTED] St/I/R; and [REDACTED].

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Mr. [REDACTED] S/CST, reviewed civil defense in Hungary. Significant developments between 1950 and 1956 were: the development of a civil defense staff operative at all levels of government and in major economic enterprises; a long-range program of air raid shelter construction initiated about 1950; widespread and compulsory civil defense training, particularly in war-important industry; the organization and training of national guard-type civil defense units; and the guidance of Hungarian civil defense development by Soviet advisors.

Mr. [REDACTED] emphasized that the Hungarian program included the construction of numerous heavy air raid shelters--bunkers with 10-foot reinforced concrete walls and 15-foot thick masonry roof cover. It was reported that these were generally located at important communications, governmental, and transportation installations, and for workers in militarily important industries. Alternative defense installations at such locations included underground gallery and tunnel systems which should also have good defense capabilities, even under conditions of atomic attack. Provisions for additional shelter in urban areas included the requirement, familiar in Soviet Bloc nations, that substantial new masonry buildings include basement shelter at the time of construction. Some basement shelters have also been built in older buildings in Hungary, and remaining World War II shelters are reported to have been reconditioned. Basement shelters are not of impressive strength but would nevertheless afford some protection in areas removed from ground zero.

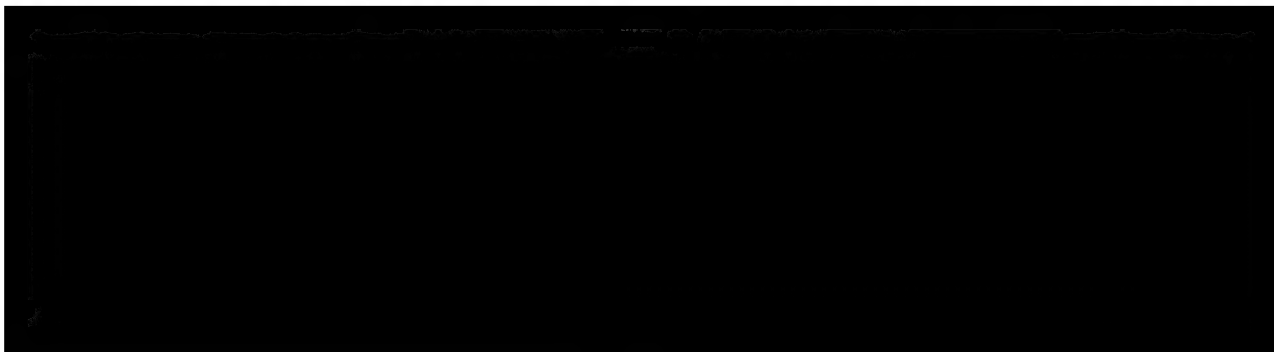
He concluded that the Hungarians prior to the 1956 uprising had conducted a bona fide effort to develop civil defense, but with a high priority placed on preserving essential elements of government, communications, transportation, and militarily important industries. He also pointed out that heavy priority shelters similar to those in Hungary may have been prepared in significant numbers in the USSR. Some have been built, but information from the USSR is insufficient to form any judgment as to their numbers.

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Secretary

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